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Page 1 of 1

AUG 18 2004

Docket No.: AMERMOT.022C1

CUSTOMER NO. 20995

Applicant : Horst Leitner
App. No. : 10/689,254
Filed : October 20, 2003
For : RETRACTABLE VEHICLE STEP
Examiner : Gerald B. Klebe
Group Art Unit : 3618

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August 18, 2004

Mark J. Kertz

Mark J. Kertz, Reg. No. 43,711

Transmitted herewith for filing and consideration in the above-referenced application are the following items:

(X) Request for Clarification in 5 pages.

(X) Total pages in transmission: 6

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, now or in the future, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 11-1410.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT
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August 18, 2004

(Date)

Mark J. Keitz
Mark J. Keitz, Reg. No. 43,711

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REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability mailed on July 23, 2004, Applicant submits the following Request for Clarification.

I. REFERENCES OF RECORD IN PARENT APPLICATION NO. 09/817,897

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify that, when examining the present application, he considered, pursuant to M.P.E.P. §§ 609 and 2001.06(b), the following references which are of record in the parent (serial no. 09/817,897, now U.S. Patent No. 6,641,158) of the present application:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS:

PATENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR(S)
2,436,961 A	3/1948	Gabriel
2,575,615 A	11/1951	Crump

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PATENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR(S)
3,172,499 A	3/1965	Stairs
3,528,574 A	9/1970	Denner et al.
3,833,240 A	9/1974	Weiler
3,887,217 A	6/1975	Thomas
3,889,997 A	6/1975	Schoneck
3,957,284 A	5/1976	Wright
4,020,920 A	5/1977	Abbott
4,073,502 A	2/1978	Frank et al.
4,106,790 A	8/1978	Weiler
4,110,673 A	8/1978	Nagy et al.
4,116,457 A	9/1978	Nerem et al.
4,180,143 A	12/1979	Clugston
4,188,889 A	2/1980	Favrel
4,623,160 A	11/1986	Trudell
4,720,116 A	1/1988	Williams et al.
4,909,700 A	3/1990	Fontecchio et al.
4,982,974 A	1/1991	Guidry
5,085,450 A	2/1992	DeHart, Sr.
5,199,731 A	4/1993	Martin
5,257,847 A	11/1993	Yonehara
5,284,349 A	2/1994	Bruns et al.
5,286,049 A	2/1994	Khan
5,375,864 A	12/1994	McDaniel
5,462,302 A	10/1995	Leitner
5,498,012 A	3/1996	McDaniel et al.
5,506,476 A	4/1996	Maccabee
5,538,269 A	7/1996	McDaniel et al.
5,547,040 A	8/1996	Hanser et al.
5,601,300 A	2/1997	Fink et al.
5,842,709 A	12/1998	Maccabee
5,941,342 A	8/1999	Lee
5,957,237 A	9/1999	Tigner
6,082,751 A	7/2000	Hanes et al.

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 Filed : October 20, 2003

PATENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR(S)
6,149,172 A	11/2000	Pascoe et al.
6,213,486 B1	4/2001	Kunz et al.
6,270,099 B1	8/2001	Farkash
6,375,207 B1	4/2002	Dean et al.
6,435,534 B1	8/2002	Stone

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS:

COUNTRY	NUMBER	DATE
Germany	31 51 621 A1	12/1981
Germany	89 10 933	9/1989
Great Britain	934387	8/1963
Japan	63 255144	10/1988
Japan	4-339040	11/1992

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

Suppliers; AAS looks at New Markets.(Advanced Accessory Systems LLC) (Brief Article) (Product Announcement); Ward's Auto World, pNA, Dec., 2000.
AN Archives; Weeks of Nov. 13-26, 1997; Powerforce pickup; http://tms.ecol.net/newcars/auto 1113.htm .
Camping World advertisement.

Appl. No. : 10/689,254
 Filed : October 20, 2003

II. COMMONLY-OWNED PATENTS AND CO-PENDING APPLICATIONS

Applicant further respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify that, when examining the present application, he considered the following commonly-owned patents and co-pending applications for possible double patenting by the claims currently pending in the present application:

PATENT NO.	ISSUED	INVENTOR(S)
6,641,158	November 4, 2003	Leitner

SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	INVENTOR(S)
10/274,418	October 16, 2002	Leitner et al.
10/641,358	August 14, 2003	Leitner
10/643,708	August 19, 2003	Leitner et al.

III. REFERENCES OF RECORD IN COMMONLY-OWNED CO-PENDING APPLICATION NO. 10/274,418

Applicant further respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify that, when examining the present application, he considered the following references that are of record in commonly-owned co-pending application no. 10/274,418:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS:

PATENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR(S)
2,487,921	11/1949	Culver
2,764,422	9/1956	McDonald
2,925,876	2/1960	Wagner
3,039,562	6/1962	Wagner
4,733,752	3/1988	Sklar
5,154,125	10/1992	Renner et al.
5,538,100	7/1996	Hedley

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IV. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests clarification of the issues detailed above. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: Aug. 18, 2004

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